

SENATE BILL 3678

By Bowers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
relative to establishing the Tennessee Cervical
Cancer Elimination Task Force.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 18, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a)

(1) There is created a task force on cervical cancer elimination to be
called the Tennessee Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Force.

(2) The task force shall have seventeen (17) members. The governor
shall appoint one (1) member as the chair. The task force shall elect the vice-
chair from among its members. The commissioner of health and the director of
the bureau of TennCare shall be ex-officio members of the task force. The
following additional members shall be appointed as follows:

(A) By the speaker of the senate, as follows:

(i) One (1) member of the senate;

(ii) One (1) representative from the women's legislative
caucus;

(iii) A representative of a women's health organization;

(iv) A representative from the American Association of
Pediatrics; and

(v) A certified schoolteacher;

(B) By the speaker of the house of representatives:

- (i) One (1) member of the house of representatives;
- (ii) One (1) representative from the legislative women's caucus;
- (iii) A member of the Tennessee Cancer Society;
- (iv) A member of the health insurance industry; and
- (v) A member from the American College of Gynecology;

(C) By the governor, as follows:

- (i) A member of the American Academy of Family Practice;
- (ii) The state epidemiologist;
- (iii) A news director of a newspaper or television or radio station; and
- (iv) A licensed registered nurse.

(b) Each appointing authority shall assure, insofar as possible, that its appointees to the task force reflect the composition of the Tennessee population with regard to ethnic, racial, age and religious composition.

(c) The appointments to the task force shall be made not later than thirty (30) days after the adjournment of the 2006 regular session of the general assembly. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner and by the same appointing authority as the original appointment.

(d) The task force shall convene within ninety (90) days after the adjournment of the 2006 regular session of the general assembly and meet at least quarterly or any time at the call of the chair.

(e) The chair may establish committees for the purpose of making special studies and may appoint non-task force members to serve on each committee as resource

persons. Resource persons shall be voting members of the committees. Committees may meet with the frequency needed to accomplish the purposes of the committee.

(f) Members of the task force shall receive per diem and necessary expenses the same as state employees.

(g) A majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of its business.

(h) The task force shall have the following duties:

(1) To obtain from the department of health a review of statistical and qualitative data on the prevalence and burden of cervical cancer;

(2) In collaboration with the department of health, raise public awareness on the causes and nature of cervical cancer, personal risk factors, value of prevention, early detection, options for testing, treatment costs, new technology, medical care reimbursement, and physician education;

(3) To identify priority strategies and new technologies, including newly introduced vaccines which are effective in preventing and controlling the risk of cervical cancer;

(4) To identify and examine the limitations of existing laws, regulations, programs, and services with regard to coverage and awareness issues for cervical cancer;

(5) To develop a statewide comprehensive Cervical Cancer Prevention Plan and strategies for implementation and promotion of the plan to the general public, state and local elected officials, and various public and private organizations, associations, businesses, industries, and agencies;

(6) To identify strategies to facilitate specific commitments to help implement the plan;

(7) To facilitate coordination of and communication among state and local agencies and organizations regarding current or future involvement in achieving the aims of the Cervical Cancer Elimination Task Force Plan; and

(8) To receive and to consider reports and testimony from individuals, local health departments, community-based organizations, voluntary health organizations, and other public and private organizations statewide to learn more about their contributions to cervical cancer diagnosis, prevention, and treatment and more about their ideas for improving cervical cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment in Alabama.

(i) Beginning April 1, 2007, and on April 1 each year thereafter, the task force shall submit a report to the Tennessee legislative women's caucus, the governor, the speaker of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives, which shall address the following:

(1) Progress being made in fulfilling the duties of the task force and in developing the plan;

(2) The anticipated time frame for completion of the plan;

(3) Recommended strategies or actions to reduce the occurrence of and burdens suffered from cervical cancer by citizens of Tennessee; and

(4) Recommended strategies or actions to reduce the costs of cervical cancer.

(j) The task force shall expire on April 1, 2008, or upon submission of the final report to the governor and to the 2008 regular session of the general assembly, whichever occurs earlier.

SECTION 2. The department of health shall use funds appropriated to it in the General Appropriations Act for the 2005-2006 fiscal year to implement this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.